

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

High Blood Pressure - Screening

Release Date: July 2003

[Summary of Recommendations](#) / [Supporting Documents](#)

Summary of Recommendations

- **The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) strongly recommends that clinicians screen adults aged 18 and older for high blood pressure.**

Ratings: [A recommendation](#).

Rationale: The USPSTF found good evidence that blood pressure measurement can identify adults at increased risk for cardiovascular disease due to high blood pressure, and good evidence that treatment of high blood pressure substantially decreases the incidence of cardiovascular disease and causes few major harms. The USPSTF concludes the benefits of screening for, and treating, high blood pressure in adults substantially outweigh the harms.

- **The USPSTF concludes that the evidence is insufficient to recommend for or against routine screening for high blood pressure in children and adolescents to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.**

Ratings: [I recommendation](#).

Rationale: The USPSTF found poor evidence that routine blood pressure measurement accurately identifies children and adolescents at increased risk for cardiovascular disease, and poor evidence to determine whether treatment of elevated blood pressure in children or adolescents decreases the incidence of cardiovascular disease. As a result, the USPSTF could not determine the balance of benefits and harms of routine screening for high blood pressure in children and adolescents.

[Top of Page](#) Reference: <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspshype.htm>

Supporting Documents

Screening for High Blood Pressure, July 2003

▶ [Recommendations and Rationale \(PDF file, 84 KB\)](#)

▶ [Review of the Evidence \(PDF file, 103 KB\)](#)

▶ [Press Release](#)

[Top of Page](#)

[Return to USPSTF Topic Index](#)

[Return to Category Listing](#)

[Return to USPSTF Home Page](#)